



Three Dartmouth Woodsmen's team members (Jeff Garneau '85, Dave Metsky '85, Bob Cummings '87) express varied enthusiasm for Lelia Mellen's '86 canoeing efforts.
— Photo by Jake Lowenstern '85

WOODSMAN'S WEEKEND ('84)

From April 16 to 29, C & T's Woodsman's Team visited Paul Smith's College in upstate New York for the 38th Annual Woodsmen's Weekend. Bolstered by the fine cooking of Elaine "Phil" Anderson and Earl "Grubsteak" Jette, the team found fine competition, many outrageous sunburns and the few Paul Smith's signs that were insufficiently anchored. Unfortunately, they failed to find more than scattered victories. The women's team (captained by the only returning member, Cathy Burke '85) slid to third from their winning performance last year while the men's A team, captained by Alex Tait '86, finished a dismal ninth. The men's B team was the surprise of the spring. Led by Dave Kotz '86 and powered by such beasts as Tito "Greystoke" Autrey and perennial Carnival skier Chris "The Animal" Bean (who was drafted two days before departure) the team powered to a heart-breaking two-second behind second place in packboard and a second in bowsaw, along with many other fine performances.

Canoeing was the milieu of the A and C teams. Here the fine coaching of Put Blodgett '53 paid off as the A's copped their only victory (in singles canoeing) and second in portage. The C's got second in doubles and portage. They also won scout load, pacing, and compass and chain



— Photo by Brian McDonough '82

throw. However, the C team's victory in pulp toss was perhaps the most thrilling and definitely the most symbolic of the true Woodsmen's spirit. In an event where the winning time is normally under two minutes the team wrestled for over 40 minutes with the ridiculously large logs provided to net the winning time, cheered on every throw by the entire Dartmouth squad and many competitors from other schools as well. Also not to be forgotten was Chairman "Young" Jake's valiant efforts on behalf of the A team after Bob "%*\$" Cumming's bloody encounter with a bowsaw, 30 feet up a climbing pole, put him out of competition in all events that required him to grasp something tightly.

This year is the first since the mid-70's that the teams have been without the daily coaching of Jim "Porkroll" Taylor '74. He has married and moved downstate. It is difficult to avoid sounding trite and overblown in describing his impact on C&T. However, there is no doubt that he single-handedly turned the Woodsmen's Team from a bunch of hackers to a team that won the men's Intercollegiate Woodsmen's Team trophy in '78 and '80 for the first time since the 50's and the Women's title in '81 and '83. Nor is there any doubt that he created in C&T an understanding and respect for the tools and techniques of the woods that has not existed since McKenney. Even if the Club had come to value "Woodsmen's" in this time there is little chance they would have gotten anywhere without the thousands of hours of coaching and equipment preparation that he donated unconditionally. Yet it is equally certain that this near-fanatic devotion would have gotten nowhere without the P. Roll spirit that earned the respect and friendship of nearly everyone

on the competitive circuit, made the 3-Man Lift the event of an evening, and left Paul Smith's College substantially confused about the name and location of several of its buildings. He has truly left a mark.

P. Roll came for a woodsmen's seminar and the practice meet, and led an undermanned Alumni team to yet another victory. But it was the fact that he was not there to galvanize practice or be in the basement in the evenings to repair equipment and show others how that made his absence so clearly felt. As one U-grad trying to run this show, I found it real tough, and I wasn't taking classes. A much earlier start, a substantial recruiting effort to find not only more team members but more people to simply help out, and a commitment from the start to spreading the load evenly will be essential if the team wishes to do well without burning out. Getting coaching advice from every available source, Earl, Put Blodgett, Bill Robes, as well as P. Roll, wouldn't be a bad idea either. But the most important thing is to get people psyched and keep them psyched for the entire 5-6 weeks or more. Any brilliant ideas on that score would be most welcome.

Like every other member of the A team, I was a bit bummed at the outcome even though we had a generally fine time. I think a great deal of the bummedness comes from the fact that this is entirely a one-shot deal, with no opportunity to try again until next year. What is needed is a World Cup-type equivalent of the Olympiad that is the spring meet, i.e. more meets during the year, fall competition at Moosilauke sounds like a particularly good idea. There is certainly no shortage of talent and interest here, as our last minute fish of Beaner showed. As for psych—the seed is planted in those of you who said “wait ‘til next year”. Challenge yourselves to remember that and the loud-mouthed bozos from Smith's next March and - who knows...? Forestry Til Death!

— David Hooke '84